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NO. 6.



"Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man."

## A CONVENTION OF CARRIAGE-MAKERS NEEDED.

Every one who ever drove a sleigh or a horse-drawn carriage in Maine, during the prevalence of deep snows and narrow tracks, knows how difficult it is to turn out to let another one pass him. He always hates to meet another sleigh in a narrow pass, especially if he has a woman and half a dozen babies on board, who are liable to be "pitched" into the snow-drift on one side, if they do not, in the scramble, get under the horse's heels on the other side.

Now in some States this evil is all completely obviated, and traveling rendered pleasant and safe, by the construction of their sleighs and sleds. The fills and wheel-trees are so attached that the right runner follows immediately after the horse's feet, or the horse travels directly in front of the right runner, (which you please.) By this arrangement, two paths are made on each side of the track, and, of course, persons who meet in sleighs or single horse vehicles, find themselves on opposite sides of the road, and slide by each other without touching. There is no need of plunging your horse over his ears into the snow-drift, or getting out and lifting your load up and holding on or floundering as you often have to do now. Besides, a two-horse team finds a path for each horse, and do not spend half their strength as they do now in trying to crowd each other out of the single path in the road.

Well, why not change the form of your vehicle? We can hardly tell why not. Efforts have been repeatedly made to bring about a change, but hitherto without effect. Petitions have often been sent to the Legislature, asking for a law to compel people to change, but all of no use. One man will not change the arrangement of his sleigh unless all the rest do, and so nothing is done.

The best mode that we can devise to bring about the change, is for the carriage makers to get together in convention, and bind themselves by mutual agreement not to make any single sleigh or sled or other vehicle drawn by a single horse on runners in any other way than in the way proposed. This would soon produce a uniformity among all the new ones, and the fashion being set, all the old ones would soon be changed to conform to the custom, and we should be enabled to travel the road during deep snows with the greatest ease.

## THE FARMERS' CONVENTION.

You will find on the inside of this number, an abstract of the proceedings of the Farmers' convention, which assembled in this city on last Wednesday and Thursday, 25th and 26th inst.

It was a good convention, more numerously attended than that of last year, though the exceedingly cold weather, and the hard traveling, prevented many from coming who desired to be there.

We have never been in a convention of any kind, where there was more earnestness exhibited for the cause espoused, or more direct and hearty speaking;—by which we mean speaking to the purpose, and with sincerity,—than was heard there. The principal topic was the necessity of a better agricultural education, and the ways and means to obtain it. There is evidently a great waking up on this subject. The heaven is working among the agricultural masses. The farmers are looking about—enquiring into their condition, and when they rise in earnest, they will come like giants,—they will demand nothing but what is right, but what they demand they will have.

## HAVE WE AN AGRICULTURAL LECTURER AMONGST US?

Those who wish to form farmers' clubs, and farmers' lyceums, and have a course of lectures before them, at a reasonable expense, have now the opportunity of obtaining a first-rate lecturer, in the person of Geo. E. Waring, Jr., of New York, who is now in this city. Mr. Waring visits Maine, by the invitation of some of the friends of agriculture, who were desirous of hearing lectures on the principles of agricultural chemistry, and its practical application to farming. Mr. Waring has been reared up under the instruction of Prof. Mages, and under the influence of the practical farmers of the empire State. He is a young man, but he carries an old head on young shoulders. He lectured before the board of agriculture, and such of the representatives as cared anything about the science of agriculture, in the representative Hall, and at the close was pelted with all sorts of questions, by those who really wished for information, and by some who wished to "entangle him in his talk." He answered all promptly and satisfactorily, till they came to queries on the potato root, and then he surrendered, frankly owning up, that he was as much in the dark on that subject as "all the rest of mankind." We commend him to those who wish to employ an agricultural lecturer.

UNCLE SAM'S FARM. The last census showed that Uncle Sam is a thrifty farmer. The value of the crops of the United States for 1850 was as follows: Wheat, \$143,000,000; Indian corn, \$301,200,000; hay, \$190,275,000; oats, \$70,840,000; potatoes, \$73,125,000; cotton, \$129,000,000; the whole crop being, \$1,732,583,042. The animals slaughtered were worth \$183,000,000, per annum. [English paper.]

OUT HOUSES. If these have not been recently cleaned and whitewashed, have this work done without delay. At any event give your poultry-houses a thorough cleaning and whitewashing this month.

## AGRICULTURE AT THE SOUTH.

"From no labor, nothing can be produced."

Having no doubt of the truth of the above aphorism in its literal sense, we shall endeavor to show that corn can grow from cotton seeds. Well, we have been in the State of Alabama three months, but from the nature of our business, could not get time to go on a plantation, stop a week or so and see how cotton was raised, until last week, Nov. 7. After having equipped ourselves with all the regalia of the hunter, we started for the plantation, situated in Troop county, Ga., where to my great joy I witnessed some of the agricultural processes of this section of country. As they were new and exceedingly interesting to me, I thought perhaps they might not be entirely uninteresting to some of your readers.

The plantations contain from 200 to 2000 acres or more, and even less than the smaller number, according to the hands worked. They do not have that neat, tidy appearance of our northern farms, and are not to be compared with them in beauty. The country is new and but partially cleared, and in many places not very productive, and so here the fever is to go West—to Texas or Arkansas, where report says, the land "where milk and honey flows" surely is;—and many do sell at a loss, and take family "with all their traps," to the far West. I reckon the "far West" is as indefinite a country as "any down East" is.

There is a heavy growth of timber, oaks of every kind, on the most valuable lands here, and it was quite curious to me the way they cleared them. They first set fire to and burn up all the shrubs and underbrush, and then simply dig the large trees; and so you will frequently see the corn and cotton fields filled with these old natives of the forest—not the Creeks, for they were cheated and then driven away for being so simple, long ago—but the sturdy old oaks, stripped of all their beauty and bark, and, giants as they are, their strength fast leaving them.

They have no mowing to do, and seldom any snow in winter, so there is no necessity of "hay," which is one of the most lovely features of northern agriculture. They save "fodder," which is their only feed except corn and oats. The fodder is simply the leaves of the corn stalks stripped off and cured with some care. The stalk is left in the field as "of no account."

They raise only corn enough for their own use. Mr. H. J. Jones, a plantation owner, told me he did not plant but little this year, having 150 barrels on hand, and he had planted only eighty acres. The corn is planted at about the same distance as ours, but only one stalk in the hill. The crop is only one-third of ours to the acre, but is taken care of much more easily.

Sweet potatoes are raised also, only for home consumption; and it is amusing to see the various culinary tricks resorted to by the people here to make way with this delicious root. One would think they were bent on its complete extermination—for we have there not only baked, boiled and roasted, but made into puddings, pies and cakes, fried, boiled and baked, and for some other purposes which it is not worth the mentioning. In fact, they rather more than take the place of our potatoes, pumpkins and squashes, which they do not raise much here, for they say the vines run so far the pumpkin is likely to grow on their neighbor's land, and so they lose it, which is rather an intricate "law question," I take it. The truth of the matter is, however, they take no pains with them, and raise none fit to eat.

The apples are not of so good quality as ours at the north, that is, none that I have seen—have not so good a flavor. But the grape, peach and persimmon abound and are delicious eating.

Without enumerating all the products of this most excellent climate, I will speak of the "great staple," that once little worthless plant, which has wrought such a miracle in the whole commercial world, and is now furnishing the means of existence to millions of famishing, man-cursed beings, both in the old world and in the new.

Did you ever stand upon a high hill, and look off upon a thousand acres or more of this "God's world," covered with this little snow-white, magical product of nature, with here and there a little army of the "sooty sons of the burning clime," a lion the leader, earnestly and patiently toiling to strip nature of the beautiful robe she has so hazily clothed herself with? If you have, then methinks you have looked upon one of the most sublime spectacles this earth affords you, and in comparison with which all the Niagara and Mammoth Caves in creation are insignificant. "La, how unpoetical," cries the complainant, do-nothing, unpoetical poetry-parrot. Does such an one for a moment consider, when gazing upon this stupendous work of nature, that *his being there* is the greatest wonder—himself, the wonder of wonders? It is one of the first facts we learn, that water will run down hill, and wash away the soil, either on the surface or below it; and he who thinks he beholds in Niagara or the Cave the great wonder-working of nature, methinks is sadly mistaken; for he only, as it were, steps out, and on the outside surveys the great workshop and admires her vast water-gutters. But I do not understand why anybody should run mad on Niagara or a Mammoth Cave, who has seen in childhood a mill-dam or potato-hole—the difference between youth and age reconciling the discrepancies in their relative magnitudes. Here we behold the lowest order of life, and what a step to the next sphere—from inanimate nature to the living, organic vegetable world. The catarract is sublime, terrible. The growth of a tree is more sublime and wonderful still; and the grower of the tree or plant—man—the sublimest of all these phenomena. So, if must worship, let us have it of the right sort—of man—God's temple in the universe.

YANKEE.

Lafayette, Chambers Co. Ala.

TURKEYS, of any sort, when fed to milch cows, most always have their tops first taken off, as they impart an unpleasant taste to the milk and butter. The tops may be given to other cattle.

## "BUTTER WON'T COME"—BUTTER WILL COME.

Mr. Editor:—In the second number of the present volume of the Farmer, I noticed an article in answer to "Butter won't come," in which the "Dairyman" gives a rule for ascertaining when the cream is at the right "temperature" to put into the churn, viz:

"If the cream feels the least bit warm to the end of your finger, or not quite milk warm, then scald the churn at once and pour in the cream, and the butter will come in five or ten minutes."

55° has been stated as the correct temperature, which I believe to be incorrect.

It is a well known fact, that the "ends" of the fingers of different persons, are not of the same temperature in the same room; whilst some are almost at blood heat, others are as "cold as a frog." Nor is the same hand always the same, when the mercury is dancing from 30° below to 40° above, our blood dances too.

But "June warmth," is what is wanted; and where do we find it? We find June in the summer, and summer heat. We find to be 75° Fahr., which is near the true temperature for the churn. 70° is too low as it will require from thirty to forty minutes churning, and the butter will come in minute particles, too cold to adhere to each other, when this is the case, a little warm water poured into the churn and churned briskly, will cause it to "gather."

I have not yet determined the exact temperature to which the cream should be brought, but 70° is too low, 85° too high, at 80° the butter will be soft.

The "end of the finger" will do for the "Dairyman," but let the Dairy woman get a thermometer, which will cost not over half a dollar, and raise her cream to 75°, having the churn warm so as not to reduce the heat of the cream, and the butter will come, and not be long about it, and it will be good.

YOUNG FARMER.

Milo, January 9th, 1854.

Will you please inform me, where I can have the soil of my farm analysed?

NOTE. There are several chemists in different parts of the Union, who follow the business of analysing soils. Prof. Mages, of New York, probably does as much of it as any one. [Ed.]

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAST SUMMER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the East Summer Agricultural Society, held at the office of the Secretary, January 7th 1854, the following:

Hon. Eleazar Crocker, President; Wm. Folsom, Secretary; Wm. Folsom, James Fuller, B. F. Furber, B. S. Jenkins, J. S. Davis, Board of Trustees; John Rowell, A. Stinchfield, Warren Fuller, Committee on Stock; E. Crocker, E. Bachelder, T. Fuller, Committee on Crops; Asa Stilson, J. S. Davis, Gorham Prescott, Committee on Manufactures.

Voted,—To hold the next show and Fair of the Society, at Palmyra village, on the first Wednesday and Thursday of October, A. D. 1854.

Voted,—To hold the next annual meeting of the Society, at the office of Wm. Folsom, Esq., in Haverhill, on the first Saturday of January, A. D. 1855, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Voted,—That the proceedings of the Society, for the past year, be prepared by the Secretary, and forwarded to the Maine Farmer for publication.

WM. FOLSOM, Secretary.

WOMEN-SHOEMAKERS. Shoemaking has for some time been a fashionable home employment among ladies who submit to do any work at all. It is certainly a more useful sort of labor than most of the fancy needlework that is accomplished in households. It appears from the New York Express that in Washington some of the most respectable and independent women, married and single, engage in the shoemaking business as an agreeable pastime, as well as from motives of economy. "The gaiters which cost us \$3 at the stores," they say, "cost us one day's labor, and 60 cents for the best materials bought at retail. One of us has made five pairs of ladies' gaiters in a week. Many of us make shoes for ourselves and children, without neglecting other household duties. On Capitol Hill alone there are thirty ladies thus employed, and about 200 in the city. We find it very easy to make two pair of children's shoes in a day, and they cost us here \$1.25 a pair." They find it a light, agreeable, profitable work.

INGENUOUS INVENTION. It will be seen by the following paragraph, which we clip from an exchange, says the Boston Journal, that the ingenuity of our inventors has devised a means by which the riotous inhabitants of "Sleepy Hollow," and their backers, will be headed off, even though they succeed in establishing a break of gauge:

"By a new arrangement of car wheels, they can be accommodated to railroads of different gauges. The Cleveland Herald mentions the arrival in that city of 11 cars, freighted with hogs, which were loaded at Indianapolis, and transported in the same cars, 54 miles over the 4 feet 8 1/2 inch gauge, to Muncie, and thence 227 miles over a 4 foot 10 inch gauge to Cleveland. This is an admirable improvement, and will do much towards obviating the delays consequent upon the different gauges of connecting railroads."

POTATOES MASHED. Boil them perfectly tender, pour off the water, and strain them very dry; peel them quickly, take out every speck, and while they are still hot, press the potatoes through an earthen colander, or brush them to a smooth mash, with a strong wooden fork or spoon, but never pound them in mortar, as that will reduce them to a close, heavy paste. Let them be entirely free from lumps, for nothing can be more indicative of carelessness or want of skill on the part of the cook, than mashed potatoes sent to the table full of lumps. Mash in a clean saucpan a slice of good butter, with a few spoonfuls of milk, or better still, cream; put in the potatoes after having sprinkled some fine salt upon them, and stir the whole over a gentle fire, with a wooden spoon, until the ingredients are well mixed, and the whole is very hot. It may then be served directly.

## THE USE OF PEAT AND CLAY IN AGRICULTURE.

While the Agricultural Press is engaged in the discussion of subjects of minor importance to the practical farmer, they should not forget those subjects which from their self-evident nature are admitted by all and the use of which is undoubtedly of the first importance in the cultivation of land. Among these subjects there is none more worthy of careful consideration than that now before us.

The chief value of Peat and Clay as applications to the soil, depends not on their similarity of constitution with the plant, but on their power to absorb fertilizing gases, retaining them against the solvent influence of water, and yielding them to the necessities of growth. Peat thoroughly turned to carbon, charcoal, and clay do not in any appreciable degree, enter into the constitution of plants, but remain as permanent absorbers in the soil, always acting as forwarding agents from the atmosphere to the plant.

Over nine-tenths of the dry weight of nearly all cultivated vegetables is derived from water, and from gases always present in the atmosphere. Of these gases the principal one which plants must receive through their roots is ammonia.

This is the source from which they obtain their nitrogen. It is well known to all in the fumes of barthorn—which is merely water saturated with ammonia—the same odor must have been noticed in stables and in the other places where animal matters are undergoing decomposition. It is naturally a vapor in its pure state, or combined with the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, (making carbonate of ammonia,) and consequently passes into the atmosphere immediately on its formation in exposed localities. From the immense amount of animal putrefaction continually going on it must be evident that the atmosphere is imbued with it, and that all ammonia formed must pass away into the air, unless prevented by some means which shall hold it fast.

To do this the chief office of charcoal in all its forms, (peat, mold, &c.,) and of clay, which from their great powers of absorption will hold on to an immense amount of ammonia and prevent its loss, or rather prevent its distribution, for when going into the atmosphere it is still ready to be returned to the soil by rains, and that field which contains the best supply of absorbent materials will derive the greatest benefit from the ammonia, which, from the improper management of manure, has been thrown away by their owners.

The sources of ammonia in the atmosphere are, first, the decay of animal and vegetable matter, and on the water, such an amount of animal decomposition that ammonia is furnished in considerable quantities to the air, whence it is always absorbed by the water passing through it as clouds, rains, &c., and by them eventually returned to the earth. If these waters fall on lands not containing absorbent ingredients they carry the ammonia back to the atmosphere on their evaporation. Absorbent materials such as peat and clay—the forms most available to the farmer—have the power of robbing this gas from the water and retaining it during evaporation, yielding it only to the growing plant.

The presence of ammonia in rain water accounts for the reviving effects of a shower always shown on plants. No such effect could be obtained from watering with spring water, unless previously mixed with some form of ammonia, in which case the same result would be the same as that from the rain.

Probably the best way to test the absorbent power of peat and clay is by the experiment described by Prof. Mages, which is to take three barrels of pure sand, and through one of these mix a few handfuls of charcoal, through another a little clay, leaving the third pure. Pour the brown liquid of the barn yard on the third barrel, and it will pass through unaltered. Pour it on either of the others, and pure water will be the result of the filtration. The fertilizing gases and coloring matters, in short, all impurities will be retained by the absorbents, which, if applied to the soil will be found to possess all the manurial virtues of the brown liquid. If we wish to be more accurate and prove that these substances do actually obtain ammonia from the atmosphere through means of rains, we have only to place a small quantity of each under a gutter spout during a shower. After drying it we can perceive no change from its former condition, but analysis will show it to contain ammonia, and its application to the soil will show that its manurial power is increased. It is owing to this property of the clay or carbon that soil has the power of abstracting the odor from tainted meat and similar impurities of food, when buried in it. It is on account of the same property that a good florist will not use new flower pots. Fresh burned clay absorbs immense amounts of ammonia, and would rob the fertilizing gases from the soil within the pot, preventing its use by plants, as their roots cannot enter the spaces between the particles of clay where the ammonia is stored. Pots are left exposed to rain and other atmospheric influences until saturated with water, when they may be used without injury to the growth of the plants. If a pot gets broken it is pounded finely and put in the bottom of another one, where it absorbs ammonia which becomes available to roots from its finer state of division.

When applied to land peat and clay retain all the gases brought to them by rains and arrest those arising from the decomposition of matters in the soil. As divisors in compost they place the manures in such a state of division (if the word may be applied here) that they are prevented from injury by fire fanning. From increased heat they may be more evenly spread on the land. The greatest value, however, in this case, as well as in those before named, depends on their retention of all gases resultant from decomposition. These they arrest in their escape and permanently fix until the roots of some plant shall traverse their pores in search of them. The amount of valuable matter thus saved is much greater than would be supposed, and if any person will place a small quantity of manure in a glass vessel, and expose it to the action of sun and rain, until more than nine-tenths of its weight be gone, the fact that there is no difference between *fire* and *decomposition*—

except that the result of the latter are more easily retained from being more slowly formed—will strike that person rather forcibly, and tend to one that he will set himself at work to save his money, by the use of absorbents. Another use of these substances is to take up the fertilizing constituents of the liquid excrements of animals. The liquid manure of a cow is estimated, in Flanders, at \$10 per acre. It cannot be worth less than that here. In most cases this is all lost, while the expense of saving it with peat is trifling. A very good plan is to dig out the bottom of the stall to the depth of about two feet and fill this with dried peat, (muck, leaf mould, or other vegetable deposits may be used as well.) It will absorb all of the liquid manure, and the heat of the animal while lying down at night will greatly facilitate its decomposition. When saturated, say once in two or three weeks, the muck should be removed. Persons keeping their cattle in open yards should have never less than six inches of muck on the ground, and this should be often removed. That taken off should be composted under cover, that the soluble earthy matters be not washed away before applied to the soil.

Peat used on light colored soils will, by darkening their color, render them warmer, on the same principle that makes a black coat warmer than a white one, when worn in the sun. It mellow heavy clay soils, and renders sands retentive of manure. Clay compacts light blowing sands and thus fits them for more profitable cultivation. It has the same power as charcoal in rendering them retentive.

Thorough attention to these two articles will be repaid in all crops and in all seasons, and in all climates. Both peat and clay are constant in the soil, and in their unceasing effect in the abstraction from rain water of atmospheric fertilizers, and the retention of the organic part of manures applied.

G. E. WARREN, JR.

## SOAP STONE.

There is a fine quarry of the singular and useful material at Grafton in the vicinity of Hallow Falls. The mill where it is prepared for use, and fitted for a finishing establishment in Boston, is at Cambridgeport, Vt., a small village near the line of Grafton. This quarry has long been known, as is seen from antiquated chimney pieces in the neighborhood, but was formerly worked upon a small scale, in part from the want of modern improvements in machinery, but chiefly from the expense of transportation to the distant market. That obstacle is now removed by the railroad. The free-travel of the stone has enabled the quarrymen to better describe the striking resemblance of soap to this article, although the ease with which the material is cut and fitted for use makes the word *free* a proper and significant appellation. The specimen at first is both amusing and surprising to see huge blocks of granite-like stone cut into slabs by a saw such as he has seen in use only for wood. The teeth are not so sharp at the point, but with this exception, one might think the workmen had borrowed from a saw-mill the well known instrument for transforming logs into lumber. The soap stone contains no substance harder than itself, and it cuts under the common saw easier and faster than hard wood of the same dimensions. This I proved by experiment on a cubic piece, a part of which I carried away as a specimen of the quarry. The slabs are cut into various forms by circular saws, which, from their rapid motion, seem not to perform a hard service; and the facility of working the material is no inconsiderable item of its value. From the various uses to which the soap stone is adapted, it must soon find a greater demand.

In the ordeal of heat, it seems to be cousin granite to asbestos, for it endures fire without warp or crack, even to a red or white heat, losing only now and then thin scales on the inner surface. Hence it is fitted and is used to answer the purpose of fire brick in the lining of stoves and forges. It is susceptible of a moderate polish, and is now fashioned into chimney pieces and ornamental work exposed to fire. Nay, more, it begins to take rank with household furniture, and is used for griddles, being found superior to iron, inasmuch as it does not get so greasy to give up the cakes, and does the work without the disagreeable odor arising from the same cooking upon iron. To what further and various uses the soap stone may be destined in this age of progress, I know not, but even this brief notice of so important a quarry in its incipient working, may not be without interest to the public.

[Cor. N. Y. Journal of Commerce.]

ANOTHER MEGALITHICUM. A discovery of great interest to the science of paleontology has lately been made at the gates of Constantinople (Algeria), while making a cutting for the improvement of the approaches to that city, where a great part of the skeleton of some gigantic animal was found. The thigh and leg bones, the vertebrae, the ribs, the upper part of the head, and several teeth were in a good state of preservation. The head is not less than 85 centimetres from the teeth to the nose, and 48 centimetres from the nose to the ear. The front part of the upper jaw has long teeth, and also tusks, similar to those of a wild boar. The legs of the animal are about the size of those of a horse, and, from the bend of the ribs, it is supposed its size must have been four times that of an ordinary ox. Its head is somewhat similar to that of the hippopotamus, and its mouth must have been of extraordinary power. It is considered probable that it may belong to the numerous family of antediluvian pachydermes. The ground wherein it was found is composed of a soft calcareous rock of tertiary formation. It is expected that the government will order some further excavations to be made on the same spot, which may lead to other discoveries interesting to science. [London Globe.]

THE INDIGO PLANT thrives well at the Sandwich Islands, in all moist situations, and grows spontaneously wherever it once gets rooted. In fact, from a single plant, it spreads with great rapidity, covering, in a few years, many contiguous acres, and rooting out everything else, even the thick sod of a heavy sward.

## MY FATHER'S HALF-BUSHEL.

My father's half-bushel comes oft to my mind, And wakes deep feelings of various kind; 'Tis a half-bushel of thirty-two quarts! It held a half-bushel of thirty-two quarts! When I think of that bushel—my father's half-bushel, That dear old half-bushel, so honest and true, Then look at the bushels, our city half-bushels, Little dandy half-bushels—it makes me feel blue! O, my father's half-bushel, that country half-bushel, Say, when with blest vision, its like shall I see? 'Twas a blessed half-bushel, and he was a true man, For he filled his half-bushel, and something there free!

Yet all the half-bushels, if mean are not small; I've vexed with the great ones the most, after all; O, mark out that adman's, next time he shall call; 'Tis a monstrous half-bushel—holds quarts sixty-four; So send the base rascal away from your door.

'Tis a fact I am stating—no slanders I utter— But who can forbear, when cheated, to mutter? In New York, a barrel—I pray you don't laugh— Will not hold so much as a potatoe by half!

O, what are the lawyers, and what are the laws, But baggages and phantoms—mere leather and straw! Unless our half bushels are all made as one, Like father's half-bushel, I say, we're undone!

## EAST SUMMER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The following are official statements of the expenditures of the Society, with the objects for which the premiums have been awarded, and the persons to whom paid, for the year 1853:

To B. S. Jenkins—1st premium on 2 yrs. old steers, \$1.50; 3d do. on 1 yr. old, 75 cts.; 1st do. on 2 yrs. old heifer, \$1.50; 3d do. on same, \$1; 2d do. on June butter, \$1.25; 3d do. on fall butter, \$1; 1st do. on oxen, \$1.50.

Francis R. Dismore—1st premium on cow, \$1.50; 1st do. on millets, 10 cts.; 1st do. on c'd hogs, 10 cts.; 4th do. on 2 yrs. old steers, 75 cts.; on yarn and wool, 10 cts.; 2d do. on 2 yrs. old steers, \$1.25.

Rufus Lowell—2d and 3d premiums on bulls; 2d and 3d do. on sheep; 3d on heifer calf; 3d on June butter; 1st on fall butter; 2d on ladies' hose, linen hose, woolen yarn; 4th on heifer calf.

Gorham Prescott—1st premium on 2 yrs. old milch heifer, \$1.50.

Reuben Husted—2d premium on 2 yrs. old milch heifer; 2d on 1 yr. old steers; 1st on 3 yrs. old steers; 2d on 1 yr. old heifer; 4th on cows; 1st on heifer calf.

Oliver S. Key—2d premium on cow, \$1.25.

Thomas Fuller—1st premium on 1 yr. old steers; 1st on 3 yrs. old heifer; 2d on cow; 2d on heifer calf.

Daniel Blue—1st premium on buck; 2d on steer calves; 3d on sheep; 3d on 3 yrs. old steers.

Warren Fuller—1st premium on steer calves; 3d on 2 yrs. old milch heifer; 3d on cows.

Ellis Fish—2d premium on buck; 2d on sheep; 4th on 1 yr. old heifer; 4th on cow; 1st on heifer calf.

Harper Mages—1st premium on bed quilt, 50c.

Mrs. Wm. Folsom—1st premium on bed quilt, 50c.

John Rowell—1st premium on 1 yr. old heifer; 1st on yearling colt; 1st on bull; 3d and 4th on oxen.

Ephraim Bachelder—4th premium on 3 yrs. old steers; 2d on mare and colt; 2d on 2 yrs. old heifer.

Alphons Stinchfield—4th premium on 1 yr. old heifer; 4th on 2 yrs. old milch heifer; 3d on yearling colt.

Oliver Leathers—2d premium on fall butter; 3d on 2 yrs. old colt.

Wm. M. Palmer—3d premium on 1 yr. old heifer; 1st on 3 yrs. old colt.

J. C. Webb—4th premium on fall butter; 1st on fringed gloves.

Ira Hall—2d premium on yearling colt, 75 cts.

Joseph Davis—2d premium on 2 yrs. old colt, \$1.

Asa Stilson—1st premium on 2 yrs. old colt, \$1.25.

B. S. Jenkins—1st premium on corn; 3d on wheat.

F. R. Dismore—1st premium on wheat; 3d on carrots.

J. S. Davis—2d premium on corn; 1st on carrots; 1st on apples.

John Rowell—3d premium on wheat; 2d on carrots.

Thomas Miller—3d premium on corn; 3d on peas and oats; 1st on beets.

Philip Hubbard—1st premium on rutabaga turnips; 2d on beets; 2d on peas and oats.

Daniel Blue—1st premium on peas and oats, \$1.

White amount of premiums, \$81.95.

## ELEVATED SUSPENSION RAILWAYS.

Mr. H. Smith, whose plan for a city railway elevated above the street, has been laid before the public, urges the application of the same principle to railways for the country. He proposes straight columns instead of arches, as in the city railway, and elevates his track about sixteen feet above the soil. There would then be no danger of running over cattle, but little to pay for rights of way, as the owners of the land could till it even under the track, and no obstruction from deep snows.

Mr. Smith asserts that a speed of one hundred miles an hour might be attained, on a road built according to this plan, with perfect safety, as short curves would be unnecessary, and it would be impossible for the cars to get off from the track. Mr. Smith also proposes that locomotives be made to climb the mountains, instead of passing through tunnels. This feat he intends to accomplish by placing out above the main driving wheel a smaller one with "cogs" adapted to a cogged rail, which will be placed above and outside the usual rail on heavy grades. The plan, thus perfected is presented to the consideration of Congress as the only true way of building a railroad to the Pacific, and as much less expensive than the usual method of building upon the ground.

[N. Y. Eve. Post.]

MILK TREES. In a narrative of travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro, just published, Mr. Wallace describes an extraordinary tree, called the milk tree, which was one of the first wonders he saw near Para. The fruit is eatable, and full of a very juicy pulp; but stranger of all is the vegetable milk, which exudes in abundance when the bark is cut. It was about the consistency of thick cream, and but for a very slight peculiar taste, could hardly be distinguished from the genuine product of the cow. Mr. Levens ordered a man to tap some logs that had lain nearly a month in the yard. He cut several notches in the bark with an axe, and in a minute the rich sap was running out in great quantities. It was collected in a basin, diluted with water, strained, and brought up at tea time and at breakfast next morning. The peculiar flavor of the milk seemed rather to improve the quality of the tea and gave it as good a color as rich cream; in coffee it is equally good. The milk is also used for glue, and it is said to be as durable as that made use of by carpenters.

## DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

CORN MEAL PUDDING. Pour over a quart of corn meal sufficient boiling water to scald it, stirring to mix. Add half a tea-cup full of sweet cream, (or a cup full of milk,) and the same of dried cherries, or any other fruit, with a little salt. When milk warm, stir in a cup full of lively yeast—cover close and set in a warm place to rise. When light, stir in flour to make the batter quite stiff, and let it rise again. Put it into a pudding bag which has been wrung from water and its inside dusted with flour or meal, to keep the pudding from sticking. Boil from one and a half to two hours. Serve with sweetened cream. Four or five hours are necessary to prepare this dish.

CORN BREAD. A New Recipe. Every body who has been at the Mansion House, at Buffalo, New York, has learned the luxury of the corn bread there provided. The clerk is often taxed to write directions for home manufacture, and I thus procured a recipe for domestic use, which I copy for you, so that those who wish may try a piece of bread from the Mansion. It is as follows: One quart of sour milk, two table-spoonfuls of saleratus, four ounces of butter, three table-spoonfuls of flour, three eggs, and corn meal sufficient to make a stiff batter.

[Exchange.]

STEWED APPLE PUDDING. Cover with apples pared and cored to the depth of two inches, a deep basin or pan; add water sufficient to stew them. Make a crust as for common biscuit, roll to an inch in thickness, cut a hole in the centre and cover with fluted apples. Set the dish on the stove or coals to cook, covering closely to prevent the escape of steam. Twenty or thirty minutes will be sufficient. Serve with sauce made of water, butter, and sugar, thickened with flour and seasoned with nutmeg.

[Michigan Farmer.]

INGRAMS FOR EGGS. Eggs are used among other things for settling coffee. An







THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

THE STEAMSHIP ATLANTIC. The steamship Atlantic arrived at New York on Friday last, with news four days later from Europe. We make the following abstract:

GRAND BRITAIN. There is no British news of interest. Councils are firm at 92.

RUSSIA. Russia is concerned a course of action with Denmark and Sweden in view of a coming war.

SPAIN. Monsieur Turgot has been appointed Grand Master of the Legion of Honor, supposed on account of Mr. Soule's unwillingness.

INDIA AND CHINA. Contradictory news is received from Burma. It is stated that the Burmese have recaptured Pegu.

THE RUSSIANS were reported at Khiva. Trade in India was fair.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 19. The insurgents had evacuated Amoy, and the Imperialists perpetrated horrible massacres upon those they met with.

CANTON was quiet. The Atlantic brings little definite intelligence to add to the important news brought by the Niagara.

On December 20, the fleet of allied ships made an attempt on the Danube. In all three cases the Turks were successful.

There is a report that the Turks had stormed Karkak, although it is likely it is not yet confirmed.

From Vienna it is stated, seemingly authentically, that Austria asked Russia if she would consent to an European protectorate over the Christians in Turkey.

To this the Czar replied that he would consent to no interference whatsoever between himself and Turkey.

On the Danube little was doing, owing to the weather. There had been three slight affairs, one between an escort and some Cossacks; another a sally from Silesia; and the third an action between a steamer, two gunboats and the shore batteries of the Danube.

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LEGISLATIVE COMPEND.

THURSDAY, Jan. 24. No business was done in either branch of the Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23. Both branches met and adjourned without doing any business.

THURSDAY, Jan. 26. SENATE. Met and adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

HOUSE. Mr. Millett of Lewiston, introduced the following order:

Ordered, That on this House adjourn, it adjourn to meet at 10 o'clock P. M. this day.

This order was laid on the table, but was afterwards taken up, and at 4 o'clock substituted for it, after which it was passed.

FRIDAY, Jan. 27. SENATE. Nothing done in the Senate.

HOUSE. The opinion of the Supreme Judicial Court upon the questions propounded by the House of Representatives was read to the House by the Speaker, as follows:

Opinion of the Supreme Court. The undersigned, Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, present the following observations and answers to communicate their opinions and some of the reasons therefor, in obedience to an order of the House of Representatives, passed on January 18th, 1885.

The constitution provides that "the legislative power shall be vested in two distinct branches, a House of Representatives and a Senate, each to have a negative on the other."

In several sections the words "each house" are used to designate the two branches. In other sections the word "Senate" is used to designate the Senate, and the word "House" is used to designate the House.

When the House is designated by the word "House" in article four, part third, and sections three, four, five and six, it is authorized to exercise certain powers conferred upon it by the constitution.

By the third section it is authorized, when so composed, adjourn from day to day, compel the attendance of absent members, provide the manner in which they shall be present, and prescribe the penalties under which they shall be required to attend.

By the fourth section it is authorized, when so composed, punish its members for disorderly behavior, if they were not the true construction, it would not protect its members from the duties required of them so composed.

By the fifth section it is required, when so composed, as well as at other times, to keep a journal of its proceedings.

By the sixth section it is required, when so composed, to punish a person not a member, for obstructing its proceedings, or attempting to obstruct its proceedings, or for anything said or done in the Senate. This construction is also necessary for its protection, and for the protection of the public.

Other powers named in those sections it may not be authorized to exercise when so composed. It is authorized to exercise those powers when so composed, and to exercise those powers when so composed.

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without conferring powers upon any branch of the government not found to be vested in it by the constitution, and without depriving the Senate of its power conferred upon it, and will prevent any action for a resort to a government of necessity. No other construction has been presented leading to such results.

By the third section of article fourth and part third, each house "may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide." This power is expressly conferred upon each house when composed of a less number than a quorum to do business.

"Members" in that section appears to have been used in the former clause respecting elections as designated Senators, and not as members of the House, who have been qualified and been present as members of the Senate; and no sufficient reason is perceived why the word should not have the same meaning in the latter clause of the same section.

The action would then authorize a Senate composed of less than a quorum to compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

If the House had the power to compel the attendance of absent members, it would be a sufficient reason to prevent a quorum should desire that they had been elected, or should for factional purposes wilfully refuse to attend, thereby to prevent a quorum.

A motion to reconsider was voted down, 1 to 6. The vote for Secretary was then taken, and resulted in the election of William Trafton, by a vote of 7 to 0.

After this Colonel A. Jordan was chosen Assistant Secretary, Joshua M. Waterhouse, Messenger, Nicholas J. Thomas, Assistant Messenger, and Rev. John L. Brown, Chaplain.

On motion of Mr. Trafton, the House adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

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have been elected to elect others by joint ballot. To the second question, I answer that the provisions of the constitution referred to, had no effect in the first instance for the purpose of filling the vacancies in the early part of the session. The Senate on the first Wednesday in January.

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